

REMARKS

Following receipt of the Office Action dated January 13, 2005, an interview was requested with the Examiner, and the Examiner required the Applicant to submit a proposal for topics to be discussed at the interview. This proposal included a proposal to amend claims 14 and 16 as set forth above, as well a proposal to amend independent claim 1.

The Examiner stated the proposal for amending independent claim 1 would raise a new issue requiring further searching for consideration, and therefore the Examiner declined to participate in an interview. The Examiner informed the undersigned counsel for the Applicant, however, that the amendment to claim 14, since it merely corrects a typographical error, would be enterable, and the Examiner reserved judgment as to whether claim 16, if formally amended in the manner in the proposal, would be entered.

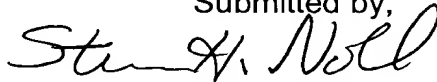
Accordingly, the present Amendment is being filed simultaneously with a Notice of Appeal. As noted above, the amendment to claim 14 merely corrects a typographical error therein, and is therefore enterable under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicant submits claim 16 is enterable as well, since the amendments correct obvious errors in that claim, which should have been noted both by the Applicant and the Examiner during earlier prosecution. Since claim 16 was rejected by the Examiner only in the final rejection, and was not earlier rejected, the errors in claim 16 had not been called to the Applicant's attention until the final rejection. The amendment to claim 16 corrects the obvious error therein, and conforms claim 16 to the embodiment described at page 6, lines 8-11 and page 15,

lines 17-20 of the present specification. Claim 16, therefore, similarly does not raise a new issue requiring searching or consideration.

Moreover, entry of the present Amendment will reduce the issues involved in the appeal.

Entry of the present Amendment after the final rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Submitted by,



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